



U.S. Army

**Project Manager, NBC Defense Systems**

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(410) 436-4347

## ***News Release***

### **MASK TEAM CITED AS AMC'S BEST**

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Contributing Authors: Kelly Buckingham, Rick Decker

A team of engineers and scientists based at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., was recently honored as the best within the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) for its work in developing the next generation of protective masks for all branches of the United States military.

The Team, working on the new Joint Service General Purpose Mask (JSGPM) was presented AMC's Outstanding Integrated Product/Weapon System Team of the Year Award for 2001 in a ceremony held at the Edgewood Area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The ceremony was presided over by the AMC Commander, General John Coburn.

The new mask will be used by all branches of the military and provide face, eye and respiratory protection from chemical and biological agents and toxins that soldiers may encounter on the battlefield.

In his remarks, AMC Commander General Coburn stated, "Here we have a team working for the good of all services coming together to produce this great mask that has greater capabilities at a lower cost and can be used by all services." The JSGPM will replace service unique masks and includes a series of improvements, such as improved protection against toxins and agents, improved field of view, lower breathing resistance, reduced weight, and improved capability with sighting and targeting devices.

The AMC Outstanding Integrated Product/Weapon System Team of the Year Award is presented to the AMC Integrated Product Team making the most significant contributions in the area of materiel management during the preceding calendar year and significantly contributing to the execution of the AMC mission while honoring all traditional American military values. The basis for selection of the JSGPM Team is their extraordinary record of achievement while inspiring others to improve quality and quantity of their work during the calendar year 2000.

The Team was specifically cited for the outstanding manner in which the team evaluated, awarded, and executed a clearly defined performance-based "benchmark cradle-to-grave" long-term contract, embracing the total life-cycle acquisition management concept, implementing acquisition and logistics reform initiatives, and partnering with a contractor for a new protective mask system. The Team accomplished these efforts within the schedule and budget constraints of the program requirements

while employing novel and innovative concepts. In comparison to previous mask programs, this unique, streamlined acquisition approach will field a revolutionary mask is less than half the time and with an estimated cost avoidance of over \$50 million RDT&E, \$105 million production, and \$250 million sustainment over the total life-cycle of the JSGPM.

Mr. Richard Decker, team leader and system manager, stated, "This is an important time in our services for joint integration. Joint Service Projects will provide the best cost effective equipment performance for our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen in the future." The members of the forty-three-person team included military personnel from the Army, Marine Corps and the Air Force. Civilian employees included engineers, technicians, scientists, attorneys, procurement specialist, contracting officers, logistics, equipment and packaging specialists, and cost/price analysts. The award consisted of monetary awards for all DoD civilian employees and military awards to joint service members.

The JSGPM Team is assigned to the Project Manager for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Defense Systems, Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, a major subordinate command of the Army Materiel Command. The Product Manager for NBC Defense Systems manages Joint Service and Army development, integration, testing, production, fielding, and total life-cycle support of assigned nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) defense systems to include detection, respiratory protection, and reconnaissance systems. The PM-NBC Defense Systems is located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. For more information about the organization, visit its Web site at <http://www.sbccom.apgea.army.mil> or contact Jim Allingham, Public Affairs Officer, at (410) 436-4347.